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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 KABUL 005653

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STATE FOR SCA/FO DAS GASTRIGHT, SCA/A, S/CRS, SA/PB, S/CT,
EUR/RPM
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR AID/ANE, AID/DCHA/DG
NSC PASS TO AHARRIMAN
OSD FOR KIMMITT
CENTCOM FOR CFC-A...

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR QUESTIONS JIRGAS

REF: A. KABUL 5625

- 1B. KABUL 5569
- 1C. STATE 193719

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald Neumann for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: During November 28-29 meetings with the Ambassador, Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan Sardar Tariq Azizuddin, noting that he

2. (C) Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan, Sardar Tariq Azizuddin, requested an urgent meeting with the Ambassador November 28, who subsequ

What is this Jirga Thing About?

3. (C) During the November 28 meeting, Ambassador Azizuddin characterized the proposed Afghanistan-Pakistan jirga as a Washington process. Again, reiterating that it was a 'personal point of interest' he wanted to know how fully President Karzai had explained the jirga concept t

4. (C) While acknowledging that President Musharraf had agreed to the proposal in 'good faith,' Azizuddin restated familiar objections that

Then Why Not Invite the Taliban

5. (C) Finally, Azizuddin came right out and asked whether it wouldn't be possible for Afghanistan to hold its own jirga and invite the Tali

Get Past the Term "Jirga"

6. (C) The Ambassador urge Azizuddin to put aside, for a moment, the term jirga and focus on the practical aspects of the problem. An agre

U.S. Bottom Line: No Power Sharing With the Taliban and Watch Cross-Border Activity

7. (C) The Ambassador reiterated that there can be no power sharing with the Taliban. The war against the Taliban has to be won. Azizuddi

Can Jirgas Really Be the Solution?

8. (C) Azizuddin returned to the Embassy November 29 for a follow-up meeting and continued similar themes from the previous day, this time

9. (C) The Ambassador responded that the jirgas had a strategic purpose, i.e., if they could be kept in the simple mode of enabling tribal

10. (C) Azizuddin wondered if the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was not a better vehicle for advancing cross-border inter-tribal relations. An

11. (C) Azizuddin suggested that "rather than go headlong into a joint jirga assembly", another view in Pakistan sees smaller assemblies

12. (C) The Ambassador commented that the Afghan side might have two possible reactions to this proposal. First, the GOA would be concer

UNAMA Paper and Role in Jirgas: Not A GOA Paper?

13. (C) Azizuddin asked for the Ambassador's view on the UNAMA paper which Azizuddin understood (until this meeting) to have come from the GOA via UNAMA. The Ambassador explained that the paper was a UNAMA interpretation of GOA views on the jirgas, not a GC

14. (C) Azizuddin asked about the role of UNAMA in the jirgas and wondered if UNAMA was not exceeding its mandate. The Ambassador responde

Foreign Ministers to Discuss Details December 7

15. (C) Azizuddin recounted GOP surprise at the way in which jirga preparations had proceeded. He said that no official channels had bee

Pakistan Jirga Team Not Chosen Yet

16. (C) Azizuddin reported that Farouk Wardak, the GOA jirga planning committee Secretary General, recently called him seeking the names

Moving Forward

17. (C) The Ambassador suggested that all of Azizuddin's questions should be put to the Afghans directly, as they were only thinking conc

18. (C) Azizuddin expressed "Pakistani nervousness in some quarters" that, since the jirga proposal had the 'moral authority and weight'

19. (C) COMMENT: It is unclear if Azizuddin came to the meeting uninstructed and whether his proposal for a lesser jirga was not a trial
NEUMANN